

CJA SEMINAR- SENTENCING ADVOCACY

June 17, 2016

**Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, Georgia**

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration & Welcoming Remarks

9:00 to 10:15 a.m. PLENARY SESSION: Developing Persuasive Theories and Themes/Storytelling

Fredilyn Sison, Assistant Federal Defender at Federal Defenders of Western North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina

Having a theory for sentencing and supporting themes is critical to your organization of the case and forms the basis of your sentencing story. This session will define a theory and theme, and will address how to develop theories and themes and weave them into your story of mitigation for sentencing. It will also discuss the elements of storytelling and how to effectively use storytelling to make a compelling argument at sentencing.

10:15 to 11:15 a.m. PLENARY SESSION: Getting to Know Your Client & Interviewing for Mitigation

Christina Hunt, Executive Director at Federal Defenders for the Middle District of Georgia, Macon, Georgia

Just who is it I am representing? How is her case different than the other hundred that I have represented? How do I uncover and develop the mitigating factors that will allow me to tell her story in a persuasive manner? This session will focus on developing an effective relationship with your client. It will also demonstrate interviewing techniques that will allow you to better obtain mitigating information from both the client and other key figures in your client's life.

11:15 to 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 to 12:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION: Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents -

Susan J. Miller, Staff Investigator, Federal Defender Program, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

This session will provide an overview of the importance of records in developing mitigation evidence. Records are inherently credible because they were created by objective, neutral professionals long before the client faced criminal charges. They reveal sensitive information that clients and their family members are reluctant to disclose -- and sometimes information that the client and their family members know nothing about.

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Boxed Lunch, In-place, provided by the Court.

- 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.** **CJA Vouchers & E-Vouchers- Practical Information on Getting Paid**
Robert D. Fritts, *Chief Deputy Clerk, U. S. District Court S.D. of GA*
- This session will address CJA Voucher guidelines and practical tips on what the Court looks for in a “reasonable” voucher, red flags for “unreasonable” vouchers, and how to justify an excess voucher when submitted.
- 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.** **PLENARY SESSION: Persuasive Sentencing Hearings**
Juval O. Scott, *Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Training Division, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C.*
- This session will discuss how to persuasively tell the client’s story at the sentencing hearing. It will examine factors to consider in making decisions about what to present and how to conduct the hearing.
- 2:45 to 3:00 p.m.** **Break**
- 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** **PLENARY SESSION: Ethics at Sentencing**
Nicole Kaplan, *Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Defender Program, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia*
- This session will discuss some common potential ethical issues that can arise at sentencing.
- 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** **GETTING INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT AND EXPERT WITNESSES**
J. Pete Theodocion, *CJA Resource Counsel, Augusta, GA*
Austin E. Catts, *CJA Resource Counsel, Brunswick, GA*
- 5:05 p.m.** **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**